

## NSU convocation

# Graduates urged to make institutions accountable

Varsity Correspondent

In black gown they stood in line, and when the call came they walked down the aisle one by one to receive the highest achievement of their student life.

It was the third convocation of the North South University (NSU) where 100 students enjoyed their rarest moments when they received the graduation certificates from the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university at the Osmani Memorial Hall on Thursday.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Hafiz G A Siddiqi gave away the certificates to the students who graduated from different disciplines in 1999 as he was nominated by the NSU Chancellor President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

The ceremony was addressed by the President of the Slippery Rock University, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. Dr. G Warren Smith as chief guest and the convocation speaker, US Ambassador to Bangladesh John C Holzman as guest of honor, Chairman of the NSU Foundation M A Kashem and the Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Siddiqi.

On the occasion NSU Chancellor and President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in a message congratulated the graduates and hoped that they would be able to contribute a lot to the development of the country.

While delivering the convocation speech, Dr. Smith of the US Slippery Rock University said, "You (the graduates) will have to be the final judge of the real world you are entering" adding a reminder to them that their future would be full of challenges and possibilities.

Congratulating the graduates, US ambassador John C Holzman termed them as members of the civil society and urged them to help make all 'institutions' of the country accountable.

He also urged them to mobilise the entire community and put up before them the role of the civil society in Seattle last month as an instance.

Criticising the current trend of politics in the country, Holzman said that the politicians were not addressing the right issues. "Besides, the politics in Bangladesh has been polarised", he added. And under this circumstances the am-

bassador pointed out the duties of the graduates saying that they should contribute to the country by making the politicians do the right thing.

Addressing the ceremony, M A Kashem, Chairman, Board of Governors of the NSU Foundation informed that the Foundation had made arrangements for procuring land at Basundhara Residential Project for the permanent campus of the university. "As soon as the registration formalities are completed, we shall start construction", he added.

The Chairman also announced a good-news for the scholars in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations. "We are actively considering to extend the scope, to study free of cost, that we are giving to the top two students in HSC examinations every year-up to top ten", he said.

Speaking about the responsibilities of the graduates, he further said, "You are well aware of the fact that our country is passing through a critical time when the world is preparing to face the challenges of the new millennium". Urging to meet these challenges the Chairman of the NSU Foundation said, "Political independence has no meaning unless we free ourselves from poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance".

Kashem said that North South University was established with an aim to check the brain drain and attract the talented academicians of the country by providing a suitable place of work. "NSU has made a steady progress towards fulfilling its stated goal", he added.

Meanwhile, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Hafiz G A Siddiqi, in his speech, criticised the public universities saying, "Very limited attempts have been made to update the curricula in most of the public universities in Bangladesh to cope with the anticipated demand of the 21<sup>st</sup> century".

The disciplines from which the 100 students graduated this year are as follows: Business Administration, Computer Science, Environmental Studies and Economics.

Among the 100 graduates, Shehrina Tabassum, from the Department of Environmental Studies excelled in securing highest grade point.

The curtains of the joyous ceremony were down in style when the proud graduates in black gowns walked off the hall in a procession.